

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 3663
Docket No.: 1448.1057**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Norifumi SHUKUNAMI, et al.

Serial No. 10/824,576

Group Art Unit: 3663

Confirmation No. 6562

Filed: April 15, 2004

Examiner: HUGHES, DEANDRA M

For: OPTICAL AMPLIFIER AND CONTROL METHOD FOR OPTICAL AMPLIFIER

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Mail Stop: AF

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Request For Continued Examination (RCE) of the subject application and is in response to the Final Office Action mailed October 23, 2006, and having a period for response set to expire on January 23, 2007. A Petition for a two-month extension of time, together with the requisite fee for same, is submitted herewith, thereby extending the period for response to March 23, 2007.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. The following remarks are respectfully submitted.